

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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## The Conservation Pledge

*I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.*

## Worms Shall Devour You

The seed companies billed their GMOs as a more efficient way to minimize insecticide use. The marketing is a bunch of hooey. Even though **MONSANTO's** insecticide sales surged, *Mother Nature* evolved Superbugs that survived MONSANTO biological weapons. All the marketing humbug was responsible for 76% of U.S. corn acreage getting planted with biotech varieties according to Federal data.

But the propaganda claims are hogwash because in **2011, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Entomologist, Aaron Gassmann**, published research showing that IOWA cornfield roots were being felled by *Western Corn Rootworms* that survived **U.S. MONSANTO & COMPANY's** insect killing GMO traits. Have you seen what happens when rootworms devour GMO corn crops. The corn stalks fall over! That means financial loss for U.S. farmers. But in MEXICO *no corn means no country*.

Fast forward to 2014 with the **SWISS SYNGENTA AG** firm's high-tech chemical warfare against Mother Nature. It's not just the BT corn that is being overwhelmed by Nature's own means of getting rid of what Mother EARTH disapproves. **SYNGENTA AGRISURE RW** has been on the market since 2007 and damages are intensifying.

In **March, 2014**, the **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences** published a new peer-reviewed study by lead author Gassman. The scientific data shows the *Western Corn Rootworms* have evolved resistance to the killing trait developed by **SYNGENTA AG of SWITZERLAND**, just like they evolved resistance to **MONSANTO's** seeds of death.

A person may not know how soon the *Western Corn Rootworms* will overcome **DUPONT and DOW CHEMICAL's HERCULEX XTRA** weaponry of *multiple bug-killing genes* in every cell of these new varieties. What do you think all those toxin-producing crops in animal feed do to the stomachs of the sentient creatures. Putting five toxic genes in a single GMO seed is wrong-headed.

You might be surprised to learn that Entomology Professor, **Bruce Tabashnik**, with the **UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA**, questions the trajectory of spending billions to develop **HERCULEX XTRA** high-tech seeds that contain a plethora of toxins in every plant cell.

Just suppose you consider the health hazard of having such unlabeled biological pesticide ingredients in the packaged foods on your grocery shelves. *Are the giant chemical companies just going to kill you, so they can make money.*

(Source: April 2, WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Farm Belt Pest Gnaws at Syngenta" by Jacob Bunge)

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### Herbicides are for the Birds

What do you think the *Native Plant Society* might say about the symbiosis between plants and the insects they attract. Did you know the butterflies and pollinators are perishing. Ask the migratory birds what they think of **AGRISURE RW** and **HERCULEX XTRA**. *The birds might be cheering for the Western Corn Rootworms.* Did you know that NORTHWEST OHIO is known as the warbler capital of the world. This year's 10-day festival is May 6-15. To learn more see [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com).

*International Migratory Bird Day* is celebrated in Ashland, OREGON, on May 10, 2014. To learn "Why Birds Matter" and the importance of the federally protected migratory bird wetland ecosystems come to the *North Mountain Park Nature Center*, located at 620 North Mountain Avenue, in Ashland, OREGON. Admission is FREE and the time is 8:00 a.m. to noon. For more information call 541.488.6606, or see [www.RogueValleyBirdDay.net](http://www.RogueValleyBirdDay.net).

(Sources: April, 2014, CITY SOURCE, The Citizen's Source of Information About the City of Ashland, "News Briefs"; [www.RogueValleyBirdDay.net](http://www.RogueValleyBirdDay.net); April/May 2014 BIRDS & BLOOMS Beauty in Your Own Backyard, "Did You Know?" Warbler facts; [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com))

### Victorious Vermont

**VERMONT is the first state to require food makers to label foods made with Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO), also called Genetically Engineered (GE) technology. This is a significant victory.**

The VERMONT legislature passed the state labeling bill by a landslide for Governor Shumlin to sign as common-sense. Consumer transparency rights scored. This is a historic win for U.S. citizens' right to know what they are being fed. The legislation generously allows for two years adjustment time before mandatory compliance. Enactment will take effect in July 2016.

Big Money lobbied aggressively to block labeling in CALIFORNIA and WASHINGTON but couldn't buy VERMONT's legislators. *DuPont Company*, *Monsanto Company*, and the SWISS firm called **Syngenta Ag** spend monstrously to control voter's minds. They could not change people's minds in VERMONT.

Transparency is gaining momentum in AMERICA because 23 additional states right now have 62 active GMO-labeling bills in legislation. That data is verified by the *Center for Food Safety*. VERMONT crossed the finish line first.

The bottom line is that biotech traders, manufacturers, and distributors already have to comply in the 66 nations with precautionary bans or restrictions.

(April 24, 2014, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Business "Vermont Will Require Labeling of Genetically Altered Foods", by Stephanie Strom; April 24, 2014 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Vermont to Enact GMO Food-Labeling Law" by Annie Gasparro and Jacob Bunge)

### Hold Seed Sellers Liable

As you may already have seen, there is a lack of mainstream media publicizing the fact that the UNITED NATIONS (UN) decreed 2014 as the *International Year of Family Farming*. How about ending the media blackout to U.S. citizens regarding that NEWS.

According to the UN, it is small-scale family farms that supply food diversity and security for the majority of the globe's population. Peasant farmers in AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE, and LATIN AMERICA, finally have representation by the *La Via Campesina* (LVC).

In fact *La Via Campesina* sent representatives from AMERICA, ARGENTINA, CROATIA, FRANCE, INDIA, ITALY, MALI, MOROCCO, MOZAMBIQUE, NICARAGUA, NORWAY, ROMANIA, and SPAIN to the recent EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC) conference in Brussels, GERMANY, to meet with the EUROPE's leaders.

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The LVC participants clearly spelled out to the EC that the old "Fairytale" stories of Big Agro-Industry partnering up with peasant farmers in order to feed the world is bull. They made it very clear that chemical farming is something other than Agro-Ecological, and that biotech practices defile what Mother EARTH holds sacred in Nature.

*La Via Campesina* spoke truth to power by implicating "Free market" as a euphemism that means "Land Grabs". The egregious corporate land grabs actually harm a vast array of sustainable food sovereignty. The "Free trade agreements" laws are unequal. The imbalance of power undermines food freedom and takes away the human rights of small-scale farmers worldwide.

When thousands of farmers lose their livelihoods or even their lives because of displacement by corporations that push individuals and families off the land and stop people from planting seeds that Man has been saving for millennia, it should be classified as crime against humanity.

(Source: Spring 2014, "Small-Scale Family Farming Supports Life" by LA VIA CAMPESINA; [www.fairworldproject.org](http://www.fairworldproject.org) )

#### Justice Begins with Seeds

*"The law declares him a thief, who from the Commons steals the goose. Yet the greater thief the law lets loose, who steals the Commons from the goose"*

--An old English proverb

Will you get excited now, or after you read this. Last week the BIOSAFETY ALLIANCE speakers came to Jackson County, OREGON, to encourage the YES ON 15-119 campaign.

Adelita San Vicente Tello is the lady who led the effort to stop the growth of GMO corn in MEXICO. The Mexican equivalent to our Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joined the Collective Action lawsuit and a Mexican federal Civil Judge placed an injunction against the introduction of GMO maize to MEXICO. Her interpreter was Microbial Ecologist Dr. Chapela, who is an Associate Professor with UC BERKLEY's Department of Environmental Science Policy and Management. For further information contact [canyonwalks@gmail.com](mailto:canyonwalks@gmail.com).

Miguel Robles, Co-Founder and Project Director with the BIOSAFETY ALLIANCE, organizes *Justice Begins with Seeds* annual conferences. You may register for the September, 2014, conference in Portland, OREGON.

(Sources: Mi Voz Cuenta; The Biosafety Alliance; [championsofthecommons@gmail.com](mailto:championsofthecommons@gmail.com); [www.OurFamilyFarmsCoalition.org](http://www.OurFamilyFarmsCoalition.org); and Southern Oregon University's "Ecology and Sustainability Resource Center")

#### A Wrinkle in Time

The play *A Wrinkle in Time* adapted by Tracy Young, from Madeleine L'Engle's book, has world premiered this season at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival (OSF) in Ashland, OREGON. The production celebrates the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the book's publication and audiences are giving the play standing ovation.

The sweet spot is the cheekiness of the actors' very funny ad lib humor poked at synthetic biology food's role in mind manipulation and population control. Some of the quips are especially laugh-out-loud funny because it is full of grains of truth for our time now. For example when the Brain boasts, "There are no sick people" the jibe is that euthanasia took out any who were sick. The moral of the play is that it carries a heart-to-heart message to love Brother Man.

One reason the Rogue Valley audience associates so strongly with the story is that it strikes an unspoken cord with the grassroots YES ON MEASURE 15-119 campaign. The local voters get it, that Yes we can overcome CAMAZOTZ mind manipulation by loving Our Family Farmers.

### No More Sugarcoating

MONSANTO CO trailed the S&P 500 by 114 percentage points in the past five years, according to [tape@wsj.com](mailto:tape@wsj.com) analyst. Keep in mind that MONSANTO stock's price/earnings ratio since 2009 is down by half of the peak it fetched in late 2007. It's all about the numbers.

Shareholders paying for MONSANTO earnings today could get a bitter taste later on, since their *Agricultural Productivity* segment is SEPARATE from the seeds business whose unsubstantiated claim of boosting crop yields is counter balanced by microeconomic risk, meaning risk is loss of patent protections. Roundup Ready lost its patent protection several years ago, and next year MONSANTO's U.S. patent for Roundup-resistant soybeans expires.

When patents expire it means seed traits can legally be reused without paying MONSANTO. That explains the shift to varieties with extended patents.

(Source: April 2, 2014, WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Monsanto Investors Are Hungry for More" Ahead of the Tape by Spencer Jakab, [tape@wsj.com](mailto:tape@wsj.com))

### The Pacific Ocean is Rocking and Rolling

The PACIFIC OCEAN is still bopping and hopping around. This time the PACIFIC SOLOMON ISLANDS rock and rolled to the beat of two major earthquakes. Both a magnitude 7.6 and a magnitude 7.4 struck about 200 miles southeast of Honiara, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

### Earth Day 2014

The Walt Disney Bears movie played in cinemas.

### Pop Quiz

What are you personally doing about how Climate Change affects your home and garden?

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